

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SECTION

799 E. Rialto Avenue, San Bernardino, CA. 92415-0011

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM 1-800-722-4794.....Fax (909) 386-8325

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL 1-800-722-4794.....Fax (909) 387-2861

EPIDEMIOLOGY 1-800-722-4794.....Fax (909) 386-8325

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2011

NR #11-48

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Rabies Exposure Alert

San Bernardino. Summer is the season when you and your family spend more time outdoors. It is also the time when you may come in contact with unfamiliar pets, wild or stray animals that can put you and your family in danger of exposure to rabies.

- A bat found alive and floating in Yucaipa Regional Park's fishing pond on Saturday, July 23, 2011, approximately 9:30 a.m. has tested positive for rabies.
- If you or your child touched any bat or you would like more information about rabies, please contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health Communicable Disease Section at 1 (800) 722-4794, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; or (909) 356-3805 after business hours and on weekends.

Rabies is a deadly disease that can occur when people are exposed to or get bitten by an infected animal. Rabies is almost always fatal in humans once symptoms begin. Therefore, it is important to seek medical attention as soon as possible for any animal bites or possible rabies exposure.

Animals with rabies may act differently from healthy ones. Wild animals may move slowly or may act as if they are tame. A pet that is usually friendly may snap at you or may try to bite. Some signs of rabies in animals are:

- Changes in an animal's behavior
- General sickness
- Problems swallowing and/or increased drooling
- Aggression

Follow these simple tips to help protect your family and pets from rabies:

- **DO NOT touch, feed, harass or provide shelter for any unfamiliar pets, wild or stray animals.**
- Vaccinate your pets against rabies.
- Do not leave your pets outside unattended or let pets roam free.
- Get pets spayed or neutered. They are less likely to leave home, become strays, and make more stray animals.
- Keep trash cans tightly covered and avoid storing any food outside.
- Bat-proof your home by sealing small openings and keeping unscreened doors and windows closed.
- Teach children never to approach any unfamiliar animals and to tell an adult immediately if they are bitten or scratched by any animal.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you are exposed to or bitten by an animal.

For more information on preventing rabies, please visit the CDC website <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/> or call the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health Communicable Disease Section at 1 (800) 722-4794, Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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